
HQ U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region



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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bavarian State Minister for Environmental, Health and Consumer Protection Affairs Visits Grafenwoehr Training Area To Establish Joint Environmental Working Group

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – The Bavarian State Minister for Environment, Health and Consumer Protection, Dr. Werner Schnappauf, will take part in a joint press conference with U.S. Forces representatives June 22, 2006 at 3 p.m. at Installation Management Europe's Grafenwoehr Training Area to formally establish the joint U.S.-Bavarian environmental working group.

The working group will serve as a forum for matters of mutual interest concerning environmental protection and is designed to ensure close and mutually acceptable collaboration regarding solutions to common environmental issues.

For several decades, cooperation on environmental matters between the various authorities of the State of Bavaria and the U.S. Forces has been exemplary. The newly formed working group will provide a more formal platform for the mutual exchange of information and finding resolutions to shared concerns and joint problems. It will also foster closer cooperation between U.S. and Bavarian authorities during the upcoming restationing activities and closure of some U.S. installations in Bavaria. Grafenwoehr Training Area has been identified as one of four remaining joint main operating base locations in Europe.

The first meeting of the environmental working group has been scheduled for late September. Proposed agenda items include NATURA 2000 (European Union Network to protect threatened and endangered species and their habitats); status of the U.S. contaminated sites program; an overview of the U.S. Forces Environmental Program as well as a report on the positive effects of military operations on biodiversity.

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Grafenwoehr - Environmental Working Group

The new working group will be co-chaired by a representative of the U.S. Forces and a representative of the State of Bavaria. IMA-EURO and the Bavarian State Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer Protection will designate their respective chairs. The group will meet at least once a year, or at the call of either co-chair.

Interested media representatives are invited to attend the press conference. Please confirm your attendance by close of business June 21, by calling the USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office at CIV 09641-83-1600, or sending an e-mail to susanne.bartsch@us.army.mil.

Media will meet at on June 22 at 2:30 p.m. at Gate 3, Grafenwoehr Training Area.

For further information, please call Susanne Bartsch, Media Relations Officer, USAG Grafenwoehr at CIV 09641-83-7108.

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The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from drivers licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.